

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 14356 032326Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SP-02 INR-10 L-03 PM-05
NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 SS-15 /065 W
-----012428 040914Z /10 S

R 032311Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1019
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
USMISSION USUN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

S E C R E T PARIS 14356

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: LE, FR, IS, PBOR, MOPS
SUBJ: SOUTHERN LEBANON

REF: STATE 112330 (NOTAL)

1. DURING COURSE OF A MAY 3 MEETING DEVOTED LARGELY TO OTHER MATTERS, FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL SOUTOU RAISED WITH THE AMBASSADOR THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. WHILE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE WAKE OF THE MAY 2 INCIDENTS IN WHICH TWO FRENCHMEN HAD BEEN KILLED AND THE FRENCH COMMANDER GRIEVOUSLY WOUNDED, HE DID NOT ALLUDE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF FRANCE'S RECONSIDERING ITS COMMITMENT TO UNIFIL. RATHER HE SEEMED RESIGNED TO THE FRENCH CONTINGENT'S CARRYING ON UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. HE NOTED THAT THUS FAR UNIFIL SEEMED TO BE SERVING PRIMARILY THE INTERESTS OF THE LEBANESE CHRISTIANS, THE ISRAELIS, AND THE SYRIANS. AMBASSADOR
SECRET

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INFORMED SOUTOU OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS TO BEGIN IN THEIR MAY ONE MEETING ON THE NEED FOR AN EARLY ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT ON A DATE FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL AND BEGIN'S RESPONSE.

2. SOUTOU SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT THE PLO WOULD NOT OBSTRUCT THE WORK OF UNIFIL. THE

PROBLEM, HE SAID, IS THAT ARAFAT JUST DOES NOT HAVE
THE MEANS TO MAKE HIS WORD STICK.
HARTMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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